

# Bringing Wildlife Back into Backyards

---



Dreux J. Watermolen  
Wisconsin Department of  
Natural Resources

# Presentation Outline



- ⌘ Introduce National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program.
- ⌘ Outline Backyard Habitat Basics.
- ⌘ Overview Community Wildlife Habitat Program.
- ⌘ Highlight Urban Wildlife Planning Basics.
- ⌘ Draw some conclusions.

# Presentation Outline



- ⌘ **Introduce National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program.**
- ⌘ Outline Backyard Habitat Basics.
- ⌘ Overview Community Wildlife Habitat Program.
- ⌘ Highlight Urban Wildlife Planning Basics.
- ⌘ Draw some conclusions.

# Backyard Wildlife Habitat

Four components:

- ⌘ Habitat Stewards
- ⌘ Schoolyard Habitats
- ⌘ Workplace Habitats
- ⌘ Community Wildlife Habitats



# Backyard Wildlife Habitat



⌘ **Goal:** 70,000 certified Backyard Wildlife Habitats to celebrate 70th anniversary in 2006. (at 57,093 as of October 12th)

⌘ **More information:** [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)

# Presentation Outline



- ⌘ Introduce National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program.
- ⌘ **Outline Backyard Habitat Basics.**
- ⌘ Overview Community Wildlife Habitat Program.
- ⌘ Highlight Urban Wildlife Planning Basics.
- ⌘ Draw some conclusions.

# Backyard Habitat: the Basics

✂️ **Step 1:** Assess your yard or garden space.

*The first thing you need to do is identify the habitat elements that already exist in your yard or garden space.*



# Backyard Habitat: the Basics

---

⌘ **Step 2:** Provide the four basic elements...

Food

Water

Shelter

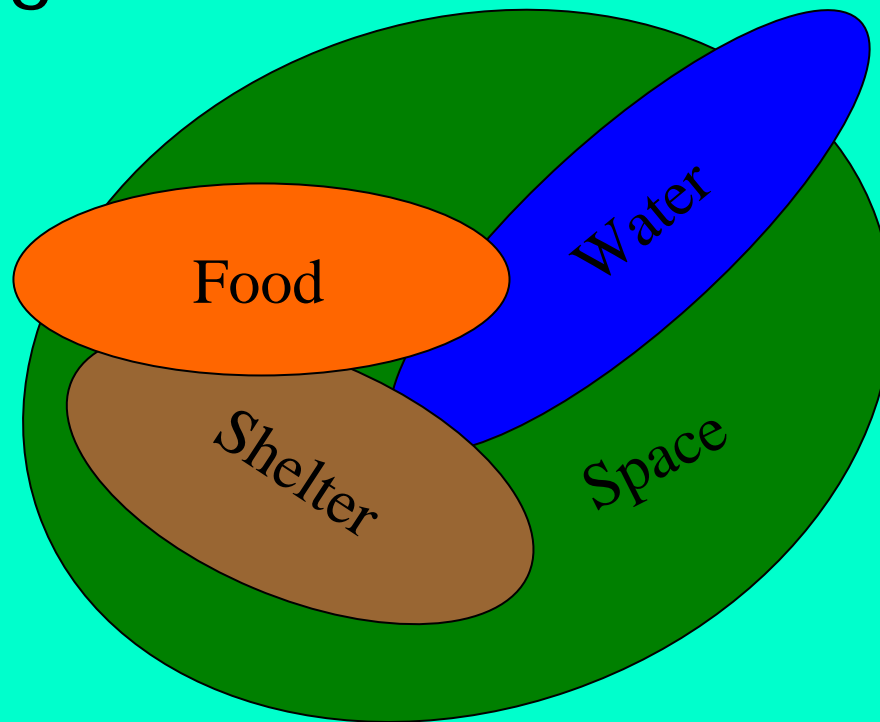
Space



# Backyard Habitat: the Basics

---

⌘ Provide the four basic elements... in the right arrangement.



# Backyard Habitat: the Basics

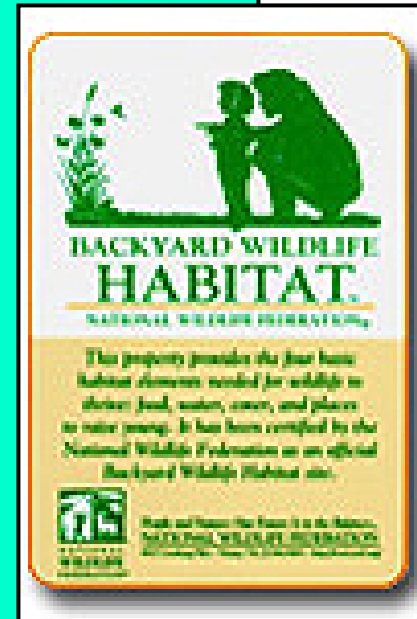
---

## ✂️ **Step 3:** Practice resource conservation in your own backyard.

- Plant native plants suited to your region.
- Filter storm water and limit runoff.
- Use mulch to conserve soil moisture.
- Use a drip soaker hose instead of a sprinkler if watering is needed.
- Eliminate chemical use in your yard.
- Control pests by organic means.
- Reduce or eliminate your lawn area.

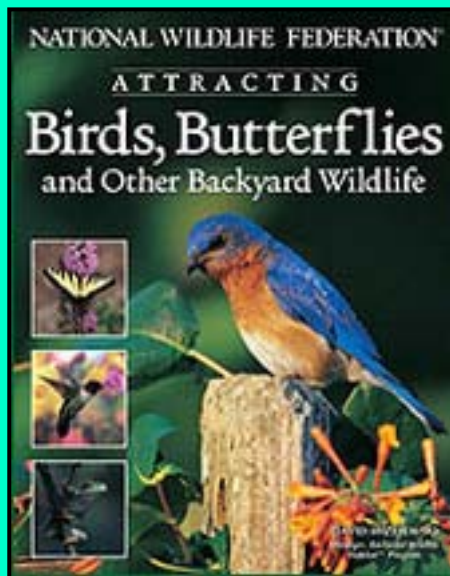


## 🔗 Step 4: Certify your backyard.

[illegible]

# Backyard Habitat: Resources

[www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/](http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/)



# *Backyard Habitat*

---

- ⌘ Hosted by David Mizejewski (NWF) and Molly Pesce (TV personality)
- ⌘ Presents fun and simple ways to attract wildlife to your property.
- ⌘ Aired every weekday at 11:00 a.m. E/P



*"From butterfly gardens to turtle ponds to bird feeders, learn how to build, landscape and create a certified habitat."*

# Backyard Habitat: Resources



# Presentation Outline



- ⌘ Introduce National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program.
- ⌘ Outline Backyard Habitat Basics.
- ⌘ **Overview Community Wildlife Habitat Program.**
- ⌘ Highlight Urban Wildlife Planning Basics.
- ⌘ Draw some conclusions.

# Community Wildlife Habitat

⌘ Certification based on a minimum number of points earned in each section:

- ☑ Registration
- ☑ Habitat Certification
- ☑ Education
- ☑ Community projects
- ☑ Administrative goals





# Community Wildlife Habitat





## ⌘ Step 1: Form a “Habitat Team” and...

- neighborhood association
- land trust
- conservation organization
- birding club
- garden club
- bird feeding store
- chamber of commerce
- plant supplier/nursery
- local or county government
- senior center
- school district administration
- gardening association
- local PTA/PTO
- student environmental club
- place of worship
- nature center

# Community Wildlife Habitat

✂... register your community project.



## Community Wildlife Habitat Registration Form

Congratulations on taking the initiative toward starting a community-wide habitat conservation project! By completing this form and returning it to us you can register your Community Wildlife Habitat project with the National Wildlife Federation® (NWF). Once registered, your community will begin working toward community certification and receive ongoing support from NWF.

To register your community, please complete the following information:

- Name your Community Wildlife Habitat Project**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Identify a Community Wildlife Habitat Team Leader and recruit at least four individuals to become members of the Community Wildlife Habitat Team.**  
Complete the attached Community Wildlife Habitat Team Members List.
- Register the Habitat Team members as official volunteers with NWF.**  
Each team member should complete the Volunteer Application and Image Release Form.
- Set up and maintain a project journal/notebook.**
- Research your community.**  
Complete Part I: Community Basics of the attached form Community Description and Demographics.
- Develop project goals and vision for 1, 3 and 5 years.**  
Review the points needed for each segment of Community Wildlife Habitat certification and determine which activities will work best for your community. See the Community Wildlife Habitat Goals Matrix for specific activities and points awarded for each.

# Community Wildlife Habitat

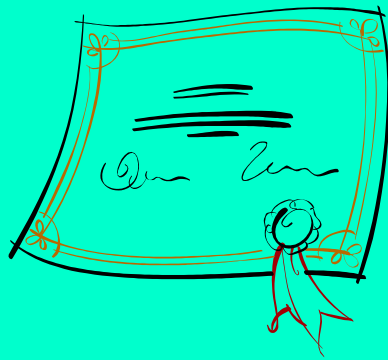


## ⌘ **Step 2:** Educate your community and work on Certification activities.

- Resource library for project.
- Information kiosk with information about project.
- Project brochure specific to community.
- Regular column in community paper/newsletter.
- Workshops for community members on wildlife gardening.
- Habitat Stewards training.
- *Creating Places for Wildlife*, online Distance Learning.
- Create & distribute a native plant list for your community.

# Community Wildlife Habitat

✂️ **Step 3:** Certify your community and celebrate.



# Community Wildlife Habitat

---

✂ **Step 4:** Complete yearly post-certification goals.



# Community Wildlife Habitat

---

⌘ **Certified** Zionsville, IN

⌘ **Registered** Bloomington, IN

⌘ **Registered** Belding, MI



# Presentation Outline



- ⌘ Introduce National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program.
- ⌘ Outline Backyard Habitat Basics.
- ⌘ Overview Community Wildlife Habitat Program.
- ⌘ **Highlight Urban Wildlife Planning Basics.**
- ⌘ Draw some conclusions.

# Too much of a good thing?

**City to discuss  
deer problems**

**Mischeivous black bears amble into  
Bucky's turf**

**Wild turkeys cause trouble  
in Michigan**

**Turns out bear was really there**

**Rambling bru  
to earth in su**

**seen in Cedarburg, brought**

**Mequon killing deer at 10 times '03's pace**

**Area communities get used to culling herds**

**Are gulls guilty of fouling beaches?**

**County parks unit capturing, killing geese**



# Urban Wildlife Planning

⌘ **Step 1:** What is the current population of (deer, geese, gulls, coyote, etc.) in your urban area?

☒ How was that number determined?

☒ What are the negative effects of that population level?



# Urban Wildlife Planning

---

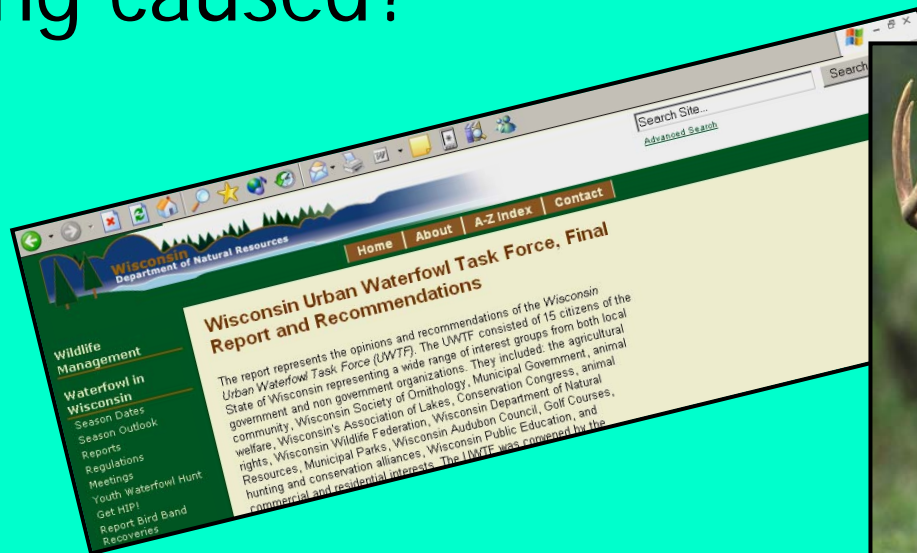
**⌘ Step 2:** What is the desired population level in your area?

☒ What level of consequences is the community willing to accept?

☒ How was this determined? What public input shows public acceptance of the desired population goal?

# Urban Wildlife Planning

⌘ **Step 3:** What techniques can be used to obtain population goals or control damage being caused?



# Presentation Outline



- ⌘ Introduce National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program.
- ⌘ Outline Backyard Habitat Basics.
- ⌘ Overview Community Wildlife Habitat Program.
- ⌘ Highlight Urban Wildlife Planning Basics.
- ⌘ **Draw some conclusions.**

# Conclusions



- ⌘ There are ample opportunities to create wildlife habitat in urban areas, including people's own backyards.
- ⌘ Programs exist to foster and recognize these habitat creation efforts.
- ⌘ "Nuisance" wildlife populations are manageable.

Thank you!



Questions?